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## 1. Population

At the end of 2007, Taiwan's population reached 23.0 million. The ratio of population aged $0-14$ years is $17.6 \%$ whereas aged 65 years and over $10.2 \%$. This is due to longer life expectancy and decreasing fertility rate, reflecting the fact of childless and aging society. The sex ratio of birth reached 110, higher than overall normal ratio 105-106 and behind India 112, China 111 in countries over 10 millions population.

Age structure of population


Source: Ministry of the Interior.
According to projection by Council for Economic Planning and Development, the ratio of population aged 65 years or above will reach $13.7 \%$ in 2017, slightly higher than the ratio of youth population $12.7 \%$. The rate of dependency will decrease from 2.6 (ratio of persons aged 15-64 years to persons 0-14 years and 65 years or above) in 2007 to 1.2 in 2050.

Population projection


[^0]According to the age and sex of the country's population, the earlier standard-shaped pyramid population distribution with a highest percentage of children gives way to the current lantern-shape population distribution as a result of youth bulge. It is projected that, in the year 2050, a reversal of the pyramid shaped distribution dominated by senior population will emerge with a substantial decreased younger age population. Also, senior female is expected to be more than its male counterpart.

Population structure by age and sex


Source: Ministry of the Interior and Council for Economic Planning and Development.

The young population aged from 0 to 14 has experienced a decreasing trend since 1970s. The number of childbearing-age woman has also reversed the increasing trend since 2001 and the general population growth has gone flat at the present time. Once the current young population enters its childbearing age, the population growth will be reversed and negative as a result. The Council for Economic Planning and Development has estimated that the country's population will peak at 2018 and then decrease subsequently.

Trend of total population, childbearing-age women and young population


Source: Ministry of the Interior and Council for Economic Planning and Development.
Note : Data referred to end of year before 2008 and estimated by Council for Economic Planning and Development afterwards.

## 2. Marriage and Family

In 2006, more than half (53.1\%) of the women aged 15 and over were married, followed by $31.2 \%$ unmarried; both figures were lower than those of men. Nearly ten percent of women (9.3\%) lost their spouses, four times as high as men, because women had a longer life expectancy and their remarriage rate ( $12.4 \%$ ) was significantly lower than men ( $29.5 \%$ ). Also, the ratio of divorced women (6.4\%) was slightly higher than that of males (5.8\%).

Marital status for population aged 15 and over


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

In 2006, the general fertility rate of the childbearing women is 33\%. The general fertility rate is led by those aged between 25 and $29(78 \%)$ and by the $30-34$ age group ( $71 \%$ ), which decreases $67 \%$ points and $13 \%$ points, respectively, compared with those of 1996. Based on the present birth rate, a childbearing woman is expected to give birth to 1.1 children in average, a decrease of 0.6 compared with the 1996 figure.

Age-specific fertility rate


Source: Ministry of the Interior.
Note : General fertility rate of childbearing-age women referred to the average birth per 1,000 women (15-49 years) in a year.

In 2006, married women aged 15 and over without income (including unpaid family member, unemployed, and non-labor force) gave birth to 2.96 babies in average. The average number of birth decreases with increasing income by woman. Those with income more than 60 thousand NT dollars only gave birth to 1.83 babies. These two figures ( 2.96 and 1.83 ) dropped by 0.29 and 0.34 , respectively, compared with those of 1993.

Income and average number of birth for married women aged 15 and over


Source: Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS), Executive Yuan.
Note : "Women's Marriage, Fertility and Employment Survey" was conducted irregularly.
Children aged under 3 years in marriage were taken care in a variety of ways in 2006. The most common ways were by self ( $65.8 \%$ ), 6.5 percentage points lower than that in 2000 ; followed by parents or relatives( $26.1 \%$ ) and babysitters( $7.5 \%$ ), an increase of 5.4 and 1.0 percentage points respectively over the past six years.

Care for children aged under 3 in marriage


Source: DGBAS, Executive Yuan.
Note : "Women's Marriage, Fertility and Employment Survey" was conducted irregularly.

## 3. Health

In 2006, life expectancy for overall was 77.9 years; for females and males was 81.4 years and 74.9 years, respectively, lower than 86 years and 79 years of Japan and 82 years and 78 years of Singapore, comparable to 80 years and 75 years of the USA and 81 years and 74 years of South Korea, and higher than 74 years and 70 years of China.

Life expectancy


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

In 2006, malignant neoplasms topped the ten leading causes of death for males and females. Among the leading causes, the male death rate was consistently higher than that of females, apart from diabetes mellitus. The three largest discrepancies in mortality rates between males and females were accidents and adverse effects, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and suicide, males being 2.9, 2.4 and 2.3 times of females, respectively.

The death rate per 100,000 persons in 2006


Source: Department of Health.

In 2006, the median age at death is 75 years for women and 71 years for men. For the median age of the ten leading death causes, both sexes have the same age of 69 years for malignant neoplasms, but women have consistently higher median ages than men for the rest death causes. Chronic liver disease and liver cirrhosis have the highest age discrepancy of 17 years, followed by 8 years for accidents and adverse effects and 5 years for hypertensive and heart diseases.

The median age for the ten leading death causes in 2006


Source: Department of Health.

There were 981 thousand disabled people at the end of 2006, in which 412 thousand for female (42.0\%). In term of disabled grade, 345 thousand people ( $35.2 \%$, sex ratio 151.1) for mild disabled, followed by 343 thousand $(35.0 \%$, 143.3) for moderate, 183 thousand $(18.7 \%, 128.4)$ for extreme and 110 thousand $(11.2 \%, 106.6)$ for severe disabled.

Disabled population by sex and grade


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

## 4. Personal Security

In 2006, the number of victims of reported domestic violence was 38,354 , in which 35,612 were women ( $92.9 \%$ ) and 2,742 were men. Since the government has strengthened reporting network and supporting measures in recent years, the victims have been increasingly willing to report to the authority and seek support. Consequently, the cases reported have shown a steadily increase recently.

The number of reported domestic violence victims


Source: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, Ministry of the Interior.

In 2006, the abusing parties involved in the reported domestic violence were mostly spouses (85.1\%), including separated spouses. It was followed by conjugal partners such as previous or current cohabitants (8.6\%), divorced spouses (5.9\%), and divorcing spouses (0.4\%).

The relationship for reported cases of domestic violence in 2006


[^1]The leading violent crime was forceful taking in recent years, followed by robbery and forcible rape, the three categories combined accounted for $89.4 \%$ of all crimes committed. Females were more likely than males to be victimized by forcible rape and forceful taking; in 2006, females accounted for $97.6 \%$ and $91.3 \%$ of the victims of the two crimes, respectively. On the other hand, males were more likely than females to be the victims of intimidation, serious injury, and kidnapping.

Sex ratio of violent crime victims in 2006

| $\square$ Female |  | $\square$ Male |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 97.6 | 24 | Forcible rape ( 2,316 persons) |
|  | 91.3 | 8.7 | Forceful taking (6,381 persons) |
|  |  |  | Robbery ( 2,892 persons) |
| 22.4 | 77.6 |  | Murder \& non-negligent manslaughter (1,208 persons ) |
| 20.3 | 79.7 |  | Kidnapping ( 74 persons) |
| 18.6 | 81.4 |  | Serious injury ( 59 persons) |
| 3.9 | 96.2 |  | Intimidation ( 26 persons) |
| 0 |  | 100 |  |

Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior.
Note : Intimidation means that conductors have undertaken shooting, poisoning, arson, or exploding as means to threat for victims' belongs.

The number of female victims for 2006 violent crime was 9,596 , in which the victims of forceful taking accounted for the largest number 5,823 (60.6\% ), followed by forcible rape 2,261 (23.6\%) and robbery 1,214 (12.7\%). The figures combined amounts to $97 \%$ of total victims.

Female victims of violent crime in 2006


Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior.

## 5. Education

The sex ratio gap in schools was significant only in doctor and master levels, 275.2 and 152.4 (female=100) respectively. However, the gap decreased apparently compared to 1996. Sex ratio were 97.0 for the college and university level, and kept between 92 to 98 in recent years; it represented the percentage of female student was higher than that of male.

Sex ratio of educational attainment ( female=100)


Source : Ministry of Education.
In 2006 school year, total drop-out students were 6,194 (as $0.23 \%$ of primary and junior high schools), of which female were $2,725(44.0 \%$ ), male were 3,469 ; however, it kept decreasing in recent years. The result represented the public efforts of protection for drop-out students.

Number of drop-out students


Source : Ministry of Education.

In 2006 school year, there were 50,859 gifted students (including general intelligence, scholastic aptitude, and artistic talent) in primary school, junior high school, senior high school, and senior vocational school, in which 39,777 were in primary school and junior high school, 11,082 in senior high school and senior vocational school. For the gender structure, female students accounted for about $60 \%$ of the gifted students.

The number of gifted students in school year 2006


Source : Ministry of Education.
In 2006 school year, there were 48,995 full-time teachers in university and college, in which 16,280 were female (about $30 \%$ ). For the positions of female teachers, $16.3 \%$ of them were professors, $26.9 \%$ associate professors, $31.0 \%$ assistant professors, and $47 \%$ instructors. Their percentages were relatively low compared to their male colleagues.

The gender structure of university and college full-time teachers in school year 2006


[^2]
## 6. Employment

Taiwan's civil population aged 15 years and over were 18.2 million, in which 10.5 million were labor force(female 4.5 million, $42.4 \%$ ) and 7.6 million for not in labor force(female 4.7 million, $61.6 \%$ ) in 2006. The pension systems include civil servant pension fund, private school fund, new and old labor pension fund mainly for retirement purpose at current. The National Pension Program expects to launch in October 2008 for strengthening social security and protection.

Labor participation aged 15 years and over


Source : DGBAS, Executive Yuan.

To secure the workers' retirement life, the government has launched the new portable Labor Pension System in July 2005. Employed workers can choose the original scheme (its pension fund is un-transferable) or new system (transferable). At the end of 2006, 4.3 million workers, in which 2.1 million are females, joined the new pension system and increase $9.4 \%$ from previous year. The number of female workers accounted for $48.9 \%$ of total workers increased $9.5 \%$ and 0.1 percentage point respectively from the end of 2005.

The number of workers joined new pension system


[^3]There still exists a gender sterotype with males as breadwinners and females as homemakers. In 2006, the leading cause for females out of job market was to manage housework, accounting for a significant share $51.7 \%$, though it was decreased by 8.1 percentage points over the last ten years. Secondly, studying and preparation for advanced studies $22.3 \%$, followed by old age and disable 21.4\%.

The causes for non-labor force not participating in labor market in 2006


Source : DGBAS, Executive Yuan.

The country's female labor participation rate has steadily increased and the average monthly earnings for female employees in non-agricultural sectors has increased from 32 thousand NT dollars in 1997 to 39 thousand in 2006, an increase of $22.2 \%$. However, the gender gap in earning is still significant. In 1997, the female's earning was $72.1 \%$ of male's and increases slightly as $79.2 \%$ in 2006.

The average earning of employees in non-agricultural sectors


[^4]
## 7. Economic Security and Welfare

Taiwan's population aged 65 years and over was 2.3 million (among which 1.1 million were male and 1.2 million were female; 1 elderly for 10 persons), that accounts for $10.0 \%$ of total population. Projected by Council for Economic Planning and Development, population aged 65 and over will reach 4.7 million by 2026 and accounts for $20.6 \%$ of total population (i.e., 1 elderly for 5 persons).

Population aged 65 years and over


Source: Ministry of the Interior and Council for Economic Planning and Development.

In 2006, there were 816 thousand elderly people receiving old-age citizens' welfare living allowance, in which 703 thousand were old-age farmers' welfare allowance, 87 thousand were veteran's living assistance and 141 thousand were living allowance for mid or low-income senior citizens, total beneficiaries were 1,746 thousand. Along with the disabled aged 65 years and over, and civil servants pension, elderly welfare allowance receivers share $90 \%$ of total population aged 65 and over.

Number of elderly received subsidies in 2006


[^5]The population aged less than 18 was 5,107 thousand at the end of 2006 , decreased $2.6 \%$ by last year, shared $22.3 \%$ of total population, also decreased 0.7 percentage points, in which 2,663 thousand were male( $52.2 \%$ ) and 2,444 thousand were female( $47.8 \%$ ). Children in mid or low income family were about 109 thousand, account for $2.1 \%$ of population aged less than 18 .

Population aged less than 18


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

In 2006, there were 109 thousand children and youths in mid or low-income family received living allowance, 696 thousand for children aged less than 3 (for children under 6 years in Taipei City)received medical subsidies, 13 thousand for early medical treatment for children of delayed development and 37 thousand women received maternity allowance from 10 cities and counties.

Number of children and youths received subsidies


[^6]In 2006, there were 218.2 thousand low-income persons received subsidies, shared $1 \%$ of total population, in which 108.1 thousand were male and 110.1 thousand were female. There were 4.4 thousand for class 1 low-income persons; 47.2 thousand for class $2 ; 166.5$ thousand for low-income persons with better economic state.

Distribution of persons in low-income family in 2006


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

The National Health Insurance(NHI) have the largest number of insured people(22.5 million in which $50.4 \%$ were female) among all social programs in 2006, followed by Labor Insurance (8.7 million people in which $49.7 \%$ were female) and Unemployment Insurance ( 5.5 million people in which $48.5 \%$ were female). The ratio of male is higher than female in each insurance type except NHI due to the higher labor participation rate of male than female.

The number of insured females in major social insurance programs in 2006


[^7]
## 8. Social and Political Participation

At the end of 2006, the total number of full-time social workers were 4,356, in which 3,695 were female ( $84.8 \%$ ) and 661 were men, an increase of $60.6 \%$ compared with that at the end of 2003. The percentage of female as social worker has further strengthened and increased of 2.3 percentage points over 2003.

The number of full-time social workers and female percentage


Source: Ministry of the Interior.

Female participating in the public official elections has steadily increased recently. In addition to the first female being elected as the Kaohsiung City Mayor, the percentage which females winning seats was highest in Taipei City Council (37\%), followed by Kaohsiung City Council (36\%), County and City Councils (26\%), and Legislators (22\%). The percentage for females winning County/City Mayors and Township Chiefs were comparatively low, $9 \%$ and $8 \%$, respectively. It has been no female winning President and Taipei City Mayor elections so far.

The gender structure for the latest public official elections


Source: Central Election Commission.

## 9. International Comparison

The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) of Taiwan in 2005 was 0.707 , ranked the 19th among the total 94 countries, in Asia next only to Singapore (16th), yet ahead of Japan (55th) and South Korea (65th). This result indicated that females in Taiwan were more advanced in terms of political participation and economic empowerment.

International comparison for Gender Empowerment Measure, 2005


Source: DGBAS, Executive Yuan and UNDP.
Note : UNDP used the female share of parliamentary seats, the female share of positions as legislators, senior officials and managers, female share of professional and technical positions, and the ratio of estimated female to male earned income to compile the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and in turn to evaluate the females' social and political participation and their role in policy making. Index of Taiwan was obtained by inputting data into the UNDP's equation.

In 2005, the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) of Taiwan was 0.931 , ranked the 20th among the total 158 countries in the world, lower than the Japan (13th) and USA (16th), yet ahead of South Korea (27th) and China (74th). This result indicated that gender equality in Taiwan has been well maintained in the process of national development.

International comparison for Gender-related Development Index, 2005


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[^0]:    Source: Council for Economic Planning and Development.

[^1]:    Source: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, Ministry of the Interior.

[^2]:    Source : Ministry of Education.

[^3]:    Source : Council of Labor Affairs, Executive Yuan.

[^4]:    Source : DGBAS, Executive Yuan.

[^5]:    Source: Ministry of the Interior, Veterans Affairs Commission and Bureau of Labor Insurance.

[^6]:    Source: Ministry of the Interior, city \& county government.

[^7]:    Source: Bureau of National Health Insurance, Bureau of Labor Insurance, Bank of Taiwan.

[^8]:    Source: DGBAS, Executive Yuan and UNDP.
    Note : GDI (Gender-related Development Index) is one of the indexes to evaluate the effects of gender discrepancies on human development. GDI was calculated by weighting and combining four factors: the life expectancy at birth, the adult literacy rate, combined gross enrollment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools, and estimated earned income. The index of Taiwan was obtained by inputting data into the UNDP's equation.

